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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

MAKOTO KUBO, ET AL.

: EXAMINER: DELCOTTO, G. R.

SERIAL NO: 10/694,820

FILED: OCTOBER 29, 2003

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1751

FOR: THICKENER

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated October 22, 2004, please amend the aboveidentified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Discussion of the Amendments begin on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.